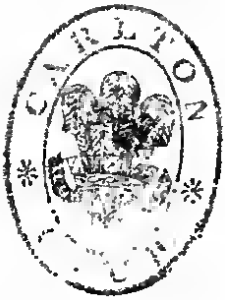

EDUCATION, IRELAND.

The ANNUAL REPORT of the Commissioners of Education in *Ireland*, for the Year 1839.

Pursuant to Act of Parliament, 53 Geo. 3, c. 107, s. 8.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY HUGH VISCOUNT EBRINGTON, BARON FORTESCUE, LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, constituted and appointed by an Act of Parliament made in the 53d year of the reign of His late Majesty King George the Third, do, in obedience thereunto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a general Report of the proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

With regard to the Royal Schools generally, we have to state to your Excellency that it appears from the annual returns made to us by the masters of the respective schools, that a much more extensive course of education, both literary and scientific, is now adopted than was formerly thought necessary for the pupils; and acting upon the principle of giving encouragement to general education, we beg to inform your Excellency that, with regard to the Queen's Scholarships in the University, attached to the Royal Schools of Armagh, Dungannon, and Enniskillen, we have altered and extended the rules, so that prizes obtained in the University, either in classics or in science, are now taken into account as qualifications for retaining the scholarships, which under the former regulations were confined merely to those students who obtained classical honours.

The Royal School of Dungannon continues to be very numerously attended, both by boarders and daily pupils; and we have the satisfaction to state, that notwithstanding the very extensive additions which we caused to be made to the Royal school-house of Enniskillen, it is scarcely sufficiently large to accommodate the number of pupils in attendance.

The Mastership of Banagher Royal School having become vacant, we have made such regulations as have enabled us to expend in repairs of the school-house such sums as the nature of our tenure thereof seems to warrant; and we trust that under the management of the master lately appointed by your Excellency, a good school will soon be established at Banagher.

With regard to the Royal Schools of Armagh, Cavan, and Raphoe, we have nothing particular to state to your Excellency as having occurred since the date of our last Report.

The Royal School of Carysfort, which is intended altogether for the education of the poorer classes, situated in a mountainous district of the county of Wicklow, will, we expect, be in operation on the 1st of May, under the superintendence of a master selected by your Excellency; and we beg to state that our attention has been directed to keeping this, as well as all the other Royal school-houses, in a state of good repair, and that we have from time to time expended thereon such sums of money as became necessary.

We further have to state to your Excellency, that since the date of our last Report we have made the following elections to Queen's Scholarships in the University:

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William Battersby	-	-	-	£. 50	–	–	per annum.
John Gilmore	-	-	-	50	–	–	—
Louis Jackson	-	-	-	30	–	–	—
George Smith	-	-	-	30	–	–	—
Charles Black	-	-	-	30	–	–	—
J. C. Devlin	-	-	-	25	–	–	—

In pursuance of our resolutions with regard to Middleton, we have awarded the following prizes to students in the University who were educated at Middleton:

30 *l.* prize to Edward Sullivan.
20 *l.* prize to St. John Armstrong.
20 *l.* prize to William Cornwall.

It having been found, that where complaints have been made to us, a system of visitation of the schools, under the control of the Board, has been attended with very beneficial effects, we beg to inform your Excellency that we have made a general order, that visitors should inspect each of the Royal Schools, and report thereon to the Board at least once in three years.

In reference to the estates attached to the Royal Schools, we have to report to your Excellency that we have endeavoured to place the tenants in the most comfortable situation that the circumstances of their holdings and their situations in life enable us to do; but we regret to be obliged to state to your Excellency, that, in consequence of the wetness of the last harvest season, great losses have been incurred by the tenantry, particularly on the Enniskillen School estate, which, from its situation along the shores of Lough Erne, was very much affected by the constant and heavy rains.

With regard to the Diocesan and District Schools, we have to report to your Excellency, that complaints of neglect of duty by the masters of two of the Diocesan Schools having been forwarded to us, visitations were in each case ordered to take place at the respective school-houses; that this order having been officially notified to the masters complained of, they have in each instance resigned their situations, and successors have been appointed to them.

With reference to the Diocesan School of Meath and Ardagh, we have, since the appointment of the present master, renewed our exertions to procure a site for a school-house, but we regret to state that our efforts are still unsuccessful. No material alteration has taken place as to the other Diocesan Schools since the date of our last Report.

In relation to the Schools of Private Foundation under the control of the Board, we beg to report to your Excellency, that in the case of Lifford School, where a complaint had been lodged with the Board as to the general conduct of the master, a reference was made to the Lord Bishop of Derry, the official visitor of the school; and that his Lordship having reported in favour of the master, we stated such result to the complainant, who is the inheritor of the estate out of which the endowment springs, and directed him, if he shall think proper to persevere in his complaint, to lay before this Board the specific charges upon which his complaint is founded.

The case of Ballyroan School also has come before the Board, in a complaint against the master, and we beg to inform your Excellency that we have, pursuant to the powers vested in us, deputed visitors to inspect the school, to examine witnesses, and to report thereon to us.

We regret to state that the school-house at Eyrecourt has been found, since the decease of the late master, to be in an extremely dilapidated condition; and that there being no funds in our hands for the repair of school-houses of private foundation and endowment, we have applied to the patrons, but without success, to restore the buildings to a habitable state.

We have further to state to your Excellency that, since the date of our last Report, we have paid into the Bank of Ireland, to the credit of the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland, the tenth annual instalment of 77 *l.* 0 *s.* 7 *d.*, payable for money advanced by Government for the repair of Raphoe Royal School-house;

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house; and that we have also paid into the Bank of Ireland a sum of 240 *l.*, being the ninth annual instalment in repayment of a loan advanced by Government for the purpose of building the School-house at Clonmel. All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed) JOHN G. ARMAGH.
R^D DUBLIN.
NATH^L MEATH.
CHARLES KILDARE.
FRANC. SADLEIR, Provost.
C. R. ELRINGTON.
JAMES WILSON.
L. PERRIN.
ROBERT SHAW.
JOHN RADCLIFF.

William Cotter Kyle, LL.D. M.R.I.A.
Secretary.

8, Clare-street, 25 April 1840.

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